



European Funding Update – Friday, 29 November 2019

SAVE THE DATE: UEA's 2020 Annual UKRO Visit (from the UK Research Office in Brussels) will take place on Friday, 6 March 2020. Please hold this date in your diaries. Next year's event will be held in the **Queens Building 1.03**. UKRO European Adviser Jennifer Morgan will travel across from Brussels and will be on hand throughout the day to offer advice and answer questions related to European funding. We would encourage anyone at UEA who is interested in learning more about current and forthcoming EU funding opportunities to come along on the day. **Full details of the event programme will be made available in due course.**

Key Calls for Research Proposals

The €657m European Research Council (ERC) Consolidator Grant Call for 2020 has now opened after being delayed. The deadline for proposals is 4 February 2020. The ERC supports proposals that will drive substantial advances in the frontiers of knowledge - in any research discipline - and encourage new, innovative thinking. They are, therefore, suitable for any School at UEA with an innovative research idea. Consolidator Grants are targeted at already independent, excellent researchers (7-12 years on from their PhD), and are designed to support PIs at the stage at which they are consolidating their own independent research team or programme in Europe. Up to €2m per grant is available for a maximum of 5 years. Usually, 100% of direct costs, plus flat-rate financing of indirect costs (based on 25% of direct costs), are awarded. In the event that the UK leaves the EU with a deal, it is expected that such bids would proceed and be evaluated as normal. In the event of 'no deal', the UK Government has said it plans to launch a domestic, alternative funding mechanism, covering such ERC grants. UEA researchers interested in this Call are advised to contact the EU Team at an early stage to discuss their potential options. **More details of the Call are available [here](#).**

On 3 December 2019, six new Horizon 2020 Calls will open up under the banner 'Building a low-carbon, climate resilient future'. The first three Calls are being launched under societal challenge 3 ('Secure, clean and efficient energy') and the latter three under the 'cross-cutting activities' part of Horizon 2020. The Calls are for Research and Innovation Actions (RIAs) and are **entitled:**

- **Development of next generation renewable fuel technologies from CO2 and renewable energy (Power and Energy to Renewable Fuels);**
- **Developing the next generation of renewable energy technologies;**
- **Offshore wind basic science and balance of plant;**
- **Next-generation batteries for stationary energy storage;**
- **Hybridisation of battery systems for stationary energy storage;** and
- **Reducing the cost of large batteries for waterborne transport.**

(RIAs are for activities aiming to establish new knowledge and/or to explore the feasibility of a new or improved technology, product, process, service or solution. They may include basic and applied research, technology development and integration, testing and validation on a small-scale prototype in a laboratory or simulated environment.)

The Calls are all single stage, with a deadline of 21 April 2020.

On 3 December 2019, four new Horizon 2020 Calls will open up under the banner '*Mobility for growth*'. Part of societal challenge 4 ('*Smart, green and integrated transport*'), the Calls are for Research and Innovation Actions (RIAs) and are entitled:

- *Next generation multifunctional and intelligent airframe and engine parts, with emphasis on manufacturing, maintenance and recycling;*
- *Towards sustainable urban air mobility;*
- *Under water noise mitigation and environmental impact;* and
- *Towards global environmental regulation of supersonic aviation.*

The Calls are single stage, with a deadline of 21 April 2020.

On 10 December 2019, a total of five Calls will open up under the '*Science with and for Society*' (SwafS) part of Horizon 2020. The 'SwafS' programme aims to build research capacities in Europe and develop innovative ways of connecting science to society. This includes making science more attractive (especially to young people), raising the appetite of society for science and innovation, and pairing scientific excellence with social awareness and responsibility. The Calls are for Research & Innovation Actions (RIAs) and are entitled:

- *Bottom-up approach to build SwafS knowledge base;*
- *Taking stock and re-examining the role of science communication;*
- *Science education outside the classroom;*
- *Gender-based violence including sexual harassment in research organisations and universities;* and
- *Hands-on citizen science and frugal innovation.*

The European office of the UK Research Councils, UKRO, has made available online slides from information session organised by a network of National Contact Points. The talks covered 2020 SWAFS calls for proposals, best practice from successful projects, and hints and tips from an evaluator. These are available [here](#).

All five Calls are single stage and have a deadline of 15 April 2020.

The Joint Programming Initiative 'Urban Europe' (JPI UE) has announced an upcoming ERA-NET Cofund Call on Urban Accessibility and Connectivity (ENUAC) to be launched in December/January. Funding agencies from 16 countries, including UKRI-ESRC from the UK, are participating in the joint Call to support international projects in the area of sustainable urban passenger mobility, freight, transport and connectivity as integral and essential parts of sustainable urban development. More details can be found [here](#).

On 19 November 2019, two new Horizon 2020 Calls opened under the banner '*Digital transformation in Health and Care*'. Part of societal challenge 1 ('*Health, demographic change and wellbeing*'), the Calls are for Research and Innovation Actions (RIAs) and are entitled:

- *International cooperation in smart living environments for ageing people;* and
- *Personalised early risk prediction, prevention and intervention based on Artificial Intelligence and Big Data technologies.*

The Calls are single stage, with a deadline of 22 April 2020.

Key Calls for Dissemination and/or Networking Activities

On 3 December 2019, a new Horizon 2020 Call will open up under the banner '*Mobility for growth*'. Part of societal challenge 4 ('*Smart, green and integrated transport*'), the Call is for Coordination & Support Actions (CSAs) and is entitled:

- *The effects of automation on the transport labour force, future working conditions and skills requirements.*

(CSAs are primarily for accompanying measures such as standardisation, dissemination, awareness-raising and communication, networking, coordination or support services, policy dialogues and mutual learning exercises and studies, including design studies for new infrastructure and may also include complementary activities of strategic planning, networking and coordination between programmes in different countries.)

The Call is single stage, with a deadline of 21 April 2020.

On 10 December 2019, a total of nine Calls will open up under the 'Science with and for Society' (SwafS) part of Horizon 2020. The 'SwafS' programme aims to build research capacities in Europe and develop innovative ways of connecting science to society. This includes making science more attractive (especially to young people), raising the appetite of society for science and innovation, and pairing scientific excellence with social awareness and responsibility. The Calls are for Coordination & Support Actions (CSAs) and are entitled:

- **Innovators of the future: bridging the gender gap;**
- **Responsible Open Science: an ethics and integrity perspective;**
- **The ethics of technologies with high socio-economic impact;**
- **The ethics of organoids;**
- **Grounding RRI in society with a focus on citizen science;**
- **Supporting the development of territorial Responsible Research and Innovation;**
- **Supporting research organisations to implement gender equality plans;**
- **Research innovation needs & skills training in PhD programmes;** and
- **Open schooling and collaboration on science education.**

The European office of the UK Research Councils, UKRO, has made available online slides from information session organised by a network of National Contact Points. The talks covered 2020 SWAFS calls for proposals, best practice from successful projects, and hints and tips from an evaluator. These are available [here](#).

All nine Calls are single stage and have a deadline of 15 April 2020.

Key Calls for 'Close to Market' Activities

On 3 December 2019, a new Horizon 2020 Call will open up under the banner: 'Building a low-carbon, climate resilient future'. Part of societal challenge 4 ('Smart, green and integrated transport'), the Call is for Innovation Actions (IAs) and is entitled:

- **Reducing the environmental impact of hybrid light duty vehicles.**

(IAs are for 'close to market activities' e.g. actions directly aimed at producing plans and arrangements or designs for new, altered or improved products, processes or services - including prototyping, testing, demonstrating, piloting, large-scale product validation and market replication. Such project proposals may include limited research and development activities, however.)

The Call is single stage, with a deadline of 21 April 2020.

Key Consultations

The European Commission is to launch a public consultation on 'Research & innovation - partnership on high performance computing'. The consultation will allow the EU to further develop, deploy, extend and maintain an integrated world-class supercomputing and data infrastructure and supports a highly competitive and innovative HPC ecosystem under the new EU multiannual budget. **More details can be found [here](#).**

International Prizes and Awards

United European Gastroenterology is inviting applications for its annual 'Research Prize'. This recognises excellence in basic science, translational or clinical research in the areas of gastroenterology, hepatology and related

disciplines. The award is worth €100,000 and is designed to support a future scientific research project from the early stage to successful conclusion. The applicant should be a well established and active senior researcher, who is leading a substantial research group and whose work is conducted predominantly in Europe. They should have been supported by substantial peer reviewed grants through internationally recognised research councils, research charities or industrial partners, and must have been mentioned at least once as author or co-author of an abstract submitted to UEG Week in the past three years. There must be at least five years between the receipt of the prize and the planned retirement of the applicant. The deadline for applications is 31 March 2020. **More details can be found [here](#).**

Other European Funding Opportunities

SAFERA has launched its fifth joint Call for transnational, collaborative research projects. The Call aims to foster collaboration between researchers from different countries in Europe and from different scientific disciplines, in order to improve safety and the management of technological risks. The Call topic is *'Safety concerns and opportunities related to advanced materials and new technologies in energy production and storage'*. Most projects funded within this Call will include 2 to 4 partners, for a duration between 12 and 36 months. Interdisciplinary research is encouraged. Cooperation and joint activities between different consortia funded within the Call will be encouraged. **This is a two-stage Call, with a deadline for pre-proposals on 30 January 2020. Call documents and supplementary information is available [here](#).**

The European Multidisciplinary Seafloor and water column Observatory's (EMSO) invites applications for its 'Conference Grant'. The focus of the Conference should primarily be on time-series analysis and address one or several key research topics within the broad fields of marine environmental sciences. **The following categories of scientific disciplines are to be addressed:**

- *geoscience;*
- *biogeochemistry;*
- *marine ecology;*
- *physical oceanography;*
- *innovative engineering;* and
- *data management.*

The conference should last four days, with two days of talks and two days of training and must contribute to the development of synergies and international exchanges between researchers and across disciplinary boundaries. The training part must give young researchers and students an opportunity to address their professional and educational needs. **More information is available [here](#). The deadline for proposals is 15 February 2020.**

Leiden University's African Studies Centre and the International Institute for Asian Studies (ASC-IIAS) is offering a joint Visiting Fellowship. ASC-IIAS' definition of Asia and Africa is broad and inclusive however they are excluding critical appraisals of comparative economic developments and Chinese investments in Africa. The fellowship is intended for researchers specialising in Asian-African interactions and fellows will receive a monthly grant to cover the cost of living and housing. The Fellowship is expected to last for a maximum of six months. **The Call is repeated twice a year with deadlines of 15 March and 15 September. More information can be found [here](#).**

Key Events and Workshops That May Be of Interest

The Security Mission Information & Innovation Group (SMI2G) has announced that their brokerage event in the area of Security Research will be held on 29-30 January 2020. The event will be hosted by Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL) in Brussels, Belgium. SMI2G is a collaboration of multiple security-focused Research and Innovation networks operating at an EU-level and this brokerage event focuses on the 'Secure Societies' Calls under H2020 with a view to creating networks and building consortia for proposals. The objective is to give delegates the opportunity to

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create ideas and find partners for each open Call via a series of short 'pitches' to a wider audience. **Further details, including a link to registration, a detailed agenda and confirmed speakers will be circulated nearer the time.**

On 4 February 2020 in Brussels, the Science Business Annual Framework Conference 'Horizon 2050: Towards a greener, smarter world' will bring together over 300 stakeholders. The event aims to take stock of latest developments around the key pillars of the European Commission's new agenda; and to explore their implications for the science, technology and innovation communities which will have a critical role to play in driving progress. It will also seek to address the challenge of developing the next generation of researchers, innovators and entrepreneurs who will have a leading role to play in delivering a climate-neutral, sustainable Europe by 2050. **Registration is now open and available [here](#).**

The International Conference on Forests for Biodiversity and Climate Change will be held on 4-5 February 2020 in Brussels. The Directorate-General for Environment (DG ENV), responsible for EU policy on the environment, is hosting the Conference with the aim of discussing the pressures on EU forest ecosystems due to climate change and sustainable forest use. **For more information, please [email](#) the Directorate-General's office.**

The Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance's 'All-Atlantic Ocean Research Forum' will be held on 6-7 February 2020 in Brussels. The All-Atlantic Ocean Research Forum will gather political and community leaders, researchers, industry, Youth Ambassadors and, speakers from along and across the Atlantic, from the Arctic to Antarctica, to showcase the results of cooperation and their impact on the citizens living on the shores of the Atlantic. **More information can be found [here](#).**

The Horizon 2020 funded project 'Grant allocation disparities: from a gender perspective' (GRANteD), will be holding their inaugural conference on 24 February 2020 in Vienna, Austria. The aim is to engage different groups (research policymakers, gender equality experts and practitioners, research funding organisations and research performing organisations) to discuss the theme 'Improving Fairness in Research Funding'. **Registration is free and can be accessed [here](#). The preliminary programme can be found [here](#).**

Other European Funding News and Developments

The European Research Council (ERC) Magazine has published an article entitled "Application advice from authors of successful grant proposals". The article can be found [here](#). Researchers and support staff interested in a bigger collection of advice can explore the ERC Twitter Moment 'Tips for ERC grant proposals' [here](#).

On 27 November 2019, the European Parliament finally approved the new College of Commissioners of the incoming European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, by a vote of 461 to 157. The Commission will serve for the next five years and there appears to be a large degree of continuity in priorities from the previous Commission, despite lots of new faces. Bulgaria's Mariya Gabriel will hold the responsibility of research under the expanded portfolio of 'Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth'. Concerning this portfolio, von der Leyen said, *"The point is that Europe needs to care for the things people care about. People care about the future of our children and our society. Culture and education are what link our history with our future. This is what makes us unique. Our soul, our culture, our diversity, our heritage. And I know that with Mariya Gabriel it is in safe hands."*

The European and African Union Commissions launched the [Pan-African Network for economic Analysis of Policies \(PANAP\)](#) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to bring together researchers and policymakers from the agri-food sector. The network aims to discuss ways to support agriculture and food policies in Africa through scientific research and

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cooperation. The overall goal is to strengthen cooperation between researchers and policymakers in the agri-food sector in Africa and to develop research on agricultural economics and policy issues to enhance food and nutrition security. The Network will work closely with key stakeholders, researchers, data analysts and policymakers.